

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS STATE 244720

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 26334 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ROME LONDON
STOCKHOLM HELSINKI BONN GENEVA PRAGUE LAGOS ADDIS ABABA
NEW DELHI MEXICO BRUSSELS EC BRUSSELS LUXEMBOURG OSLO
09 OCT

QUOTE

UNCLAS PARIS 26334

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: WFTU GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING IN PARIS

REF: PARIS 25678

1. SUMMARY: GENSOUS, WFTU SEC GEN, TELLS PRESS THAT
WFTU GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING IN PARIS REMOVES ANOTHER
VESTIGE OF COLD WAR AND WILL BE SEEKING TO ACCELERATE
UNITARY MOVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR. HE ANNOUNCED
THAT 32 ORGANIZATIONS NON-AFFILIATED WITH WFTU ARE
ATTENDING THE MEETING WHICH, HOWEVER, IS RECEIVING
SCANT ATTENTION IN FRENCH PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 7 OCTOBER, OPENING
DAY OF 26TH SESSION OF WFTU GENERAL COUNCIL, PIERRE
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GENSOUS, WFTU SEC GEN, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) UNDERSCORED SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLDING THIS FIRST WFTU COUNCIL MEETING SINCE ITS EXPULSION FROM FRANCE IN 1951 AS ANOTHER STEP IN THE "LIQUIDATION OF COLD WAR CONSEQUENCES MADE POSSIBLE BY DETENTE AND THE SUCCESSFUL HELSINKI CONFERENCE."

(B) REPEATED WFTU DESIRE TO RETURN TO ITS BIRTHPLACE IN PARIS BUT CONFIDED THAT INFORMAL SOUNDINGS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT GOF PERSISTS IN THIS LAST VESTIGE OF COLD WAR AND REFUSES TO AUTHORIZE WFTU MOVE TO PARIS.

(C) STRESSED THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF CURRENT COUNCIL MEETING IS TO DO "SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT" WHICH WILL CONSOLIDATE DETENTE AND ACCELERATE UNITARY MOVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AND THUS APPEAL TO ICFTU AND WCL ESPECIALLY AT THIS PROPITIOUS MOMENT WHEN ICFTU WILL BE HOLDING ITS NEXT CONGRESS IN MEXICO AND WCL IS HOLDING ITS OWN GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING IN BELGIUM.

(D) CITED AS EVIDENCE OF SUCH UNITARY MOVEMENT UNPRECEDENTED EXCHANGE OF INVITATIONS BETWEEN WFTU AND WCL TO ATTEND EACH OTHER'S GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS AND EXCHANGE OF FRATERNAL TELEGRAMS BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. ANOTHER EVIDENCE MENTIONED BY GENSOUS WAS RECENT DISPLAY OF UNITY IN LABOR'S REACTION AGAINST SPAIN WHEN BOTH WFTU AND ETUC CALLED FOR BOYCOTT ACTIONS AGAINST SPAIN ON SAME DAY, I.E., 2 OCTOBER. WHEN SUBSEQUENTLY LABATT QUESTIONED GENSOUS ABOUT 2 OCTOBER DATE, HE SMILED AND SUNGESTED WITH A TWINKLE IN HIS EYES THAT WHEN "THERE IS UNITY IN THE AIR THERE IS NO NEED FOR FORMAL COORDINATION AMONG LABOR ORGANIZATIONS."

(E) IN ELABORATING THE UNITY THEME GENSOUS EMPHASIZED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON WHICH UNIONS OF DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES CAN FIND THEMSELVES IN AQREEMENT. HE LISTED CRISIS OF CAPITALISM, TRADE UNION RIGHTS, MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, NEED FOR NEW MONETARY SYSTEM AND HUMAN RIGHTS (SIC).
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(F) DREW SATISFACTION FROM THE FACT THAT 32 ORGANIZATIONS NON-AFFILIATED WITH WFTU RESPONDED TO INVITATIONS AND SENT DELEGATIONS TO THE COUNCIL MEETING. AMONG MORE NOTEWORTHY ARE: UGTA (ALGERIA), TUC (SCOTLAND), SAK (FINLAND), SNTE AND CT (MEXICO), UNITED WORKERS MOVEMENT (PUERTO RICO), CNTS (SENEGAL), COTU (KENYA), BONIFACIO TUPAZ (PHILIPPINES), INTUC (INDIA).

(G) MENTIONED THAT COUNCIL'S AGENDA INCLUDES
RATIFICATION OF FOLLOWING ACTIONS ALREADY APPROVED BY
WFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD: AFFILIATION OF LABOR FEDERATIONS OF ETHIOPIA, UPPER VOLTA AND COLOMBIA. ALSO

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE UNION OF NIGERIA, THUS
RAISING TO TWO NUMBER OF TRADE UNIONS IN THIS SPECIAL
CATEGORY CREATED BY WFTU CONGRESS IN VIENNA, THE OTHER
BEING ITALIAN CGIL. DESIGNATION AS WFTU SECRETARIES:
BORIS ALEKSEYEVITCH AVERIANOV (PROPAGANDA) AND
ELEFTHERIOS FANTIS.

3. COMMENT: WFTU COUNCIL MEETING IS ATTRACTING
MEAGER ATTENTION IN THE PRESS WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION
OF L'HUMANITE WHICH FRONT-PAGED SHORT ITEM ANNOUNCING
THE MEETING. ATTENDANCE OF MEETING BY 32 "OBSERVERS"
IS SO FAR ONLY SURPRISING ELEMENT OF THE MEETING AS
IS FACT THAT THESE GUESTS, ALTHOUGH NOT AFFILIATED
WITH WFTU, ARE GIVEN RIGHT TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON
SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. WE SEE THIS AS ANOTHER WAY OF
PROMOTING IMAGE OF WFTU AS OPEN ORGANIZATION SEEKING
UNITY AND NOT IDEOLOGICAL DIVISIONS.

4. GENSOUS PRESS CONFERENCE MADE QUITE CLEAR WHAT
WFTU STRATEGY IS, I.E., TO EXPLOIT ECONOMIC SITUATION
AND ANY OTHER ISSUES OF KEEN INTEREST TO ORGANIZED
LABOR TO BLUR POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN ICFTU AND WFTU AND IN THE NAME OF "JOINT
TRADE UNION ACTION" UNDERMINE IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION
LABOR MOVEMENTS IN WESTERN WORLD.

5. REFTEL IS FURTHER CORROBORATED BY GENSOUS STATE-
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MENT REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF WFTU TRANSFER TO PARIS.

6. ALL AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS ON SUBJECT MEETING ARE
BEING FORWARDED TO BENJAMIN MARTIN OF INR.
RUSH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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